Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) An automated method ~~for recording sites accessed by a client~~ in a communications network, the method including the steps of:

~~detecting, at the client, submission of a search query from the client to at least one search engine; and~~

~~recording, in~~providing a data storage system on a server storing a plurality of~~, a~~ search trails, each search trail including ~~of~~ one or more parameters of sites accessed consecutively following return of results from a respective search query ~~results to~~ a ~~the~~corresponding client, the search trails resulting from search queries from a same user and other users; and,

receiving a search query from a client to a search engine; and

searching the data storage system to match the received search query to a search query corresponding to at least one search trail to identify at least one related search trail stored on the data storage system; and,

~~.~~presenting search results to the client based upon the at least one related search trail.

2. (Currently amended) The automated method of claim 1, which further includes: ~~wherein the step of~~ detecting submission of the search query from the client to at least one search engine.~~includes detecting submission of a completed form object from the client.~~

Claims 3-4 (Cancelled).

5. (Currently amended) The automated method of claim 49~~2~~, wherein the step of detecting submission of a completed form object ~~by the~~is performed at the client and includes:

locating form objects in an object model of content served to a client; and

adding a routine to each form object to enable interception of the completed form object upon submission.

6. (Previously presented) The automated method of claim 5, wherein the step of locating all form objects in a document object model of content served to a client is carried out after the content has been served to the client.

7. (Previously presented) The automated method of claim 6, wherein the content is an HTML document, and all form objects in a document object model of the HTML document are located once a DocumentComplete event occurs.

8. (Previously presented) The automated method of claim 7, wherein the HMTL document includes a GET or a POST form.

9. (Currently amended) The automated method of claim 2~~1~~, wherein the step of detecting submission of a search query to at least one search engine ~~recording one or more parameters of the sites accessed consecutively from the search query results~~ is optionally selectable at the client.

10. (Currently amended) The automated method of claim 1, wherein the step of providing a data storage system includes~~the step of recording one or more parameters of the sites accessed consecutively from the search query results includes~~:

recording the network address of the consecutively accessed sites. .

11. (Currently amended) The automated method of claim 10, wherein the step of providing a data storage system ~~the step of recording one or more parameters of the sites accessed consecutively from the search query results~~ further includes:

recording one or more of a user identifier, the network address of a referring site, the network address of the client and search term or terms entered by the user at the client.

12. (Currently amended) The automated method of claim 10, wherein the step of providing a data storage system ~~the step of recording one or more parameters of the sites accessed consecutively from the search query results~~ further includes:

transmitting the one or more parameters identified at the client to the data storage system of the ~~a trail recorder~~ server for recordal.

13. (Previously presented) The automated method of claim 12, and further including:

initially recording the one or more parameters in a RAM table at the trail recorder server.

14. (Previously presented) The automated method of claim 13, and further including:

periodically saving RAM table data to disk-based tables at the trail recorder server.

15. (Previously presented) The automated method of claim 14, wherein a first disk-based table stores data characterising each search trail.

16. (Previously presented) The automated method of claim 14, wherein a second disk-based table stores data characterising the consecutive sites accessed in each search trail.

17. (Previously presented) The automated method of claim 1, wherein the number of consecutively accessed sites is limited to a predetermined maximum.

Claims 18-23 (Cancelled).

24. (Currently amended) The automated method of claims ~~23~~1, wherein the step of searching the data storage system to match the received search query to a search query corresponding to at least one search trail ~~step of matching the search query to previous search queries~~ includes:

conducting a full text search on the data storage system for at least part of a search query corresponding to at least one of the plurality of search trails. ~~search query and previous search queries.~~

25. (Currently amended) The automated method of claim ~~23~~24, wherein step of searching the data storage system to match the received search query to a search query corresponding to at least one search trail ~~the step of matching the search query to previous search queries~~ includes:

limiting the ~~related~~ search trails to search trails resulting ~~from~~ search queries from a same user as the received search query. ~~.~~

Claim 26 (Cancelled).

27. (Currently amended) The automated method of claim ~~23~~2, wherein the step of presenting search results to the client based upon the at least one related search trail ~~and further~~ includes~~ing~~:

presenting the related search trails at the client.

28. (Currently amended) The automated method of claim 2~~27~~, wherein the step of presenting ~~the related~~search results to the client based upon the at least one related search trail ~~search trails~~ includes:

ordering the related search results by one or more ranking criteria.

29. (Previously presented) The automated method of claim 28, wherein the ranking criteria include any one or more of date, inverse document frequency match, target search engine, user identifier, or trail weight indicative of the cumulative frequency of user visits to steps in a related search trail.

30. (Previously presented) The automated method of claim 1, wherein the communications network is the Internet, an intranet, an extranet or other network running client/server applications.

31. (Currently amended) The automated method of claim 1, wherein the ~~one or more~~ search engines is ~~are~~ maintained on the client.

32. (Currently amended) A system for ~~recording sites accessed by a client~~ in a communications network for presenting search results to a client based upon a search query, the system including:

a data storage system for storing a plurality of search trails, each search trail including one or more parameters of sites accessed consecutively following return of results from a respective search query to a corresponding client, the search trails resulting from search queries from a same user and other users; and,

a server system programmed to provide a trail searcher for searching the data storage system to match the received search query to a search corresponding to at least one search trail to identify at least one related search trail stored on the server.

~~a search query detector for detecting submission of a search query from the client to a search engine; and~~

~~a search trail recorder for recording a search trail of one or more parameters of sites accessed consecutively following return of search query results to the client.~~

33. (Currently amended) The system of claim 32, which includes at least one client ~~and further~~ including:

a search query detector for detecting submission of a search query from the client to a search engine; and

a search trail recorder for recording a search trail of one or more parameters of sites accessed consecutively following return of search query results to the client.

~~an adapter manager for maintaining an adapter table of known search command formats for a plurality of search engines.~~

34. (Currently amended) The system of claim ~~3233~~, wherein the client computer ~~and~~ is further programmed to ~~including~~provide:

an adapter manager for maintaining an adapter table of known search command formats for a plurality of search engines for identifying one or more search query parameters are entered by a user.

~~a trail searcher for matching the search query to previous search queries to identify related search trails.~~

35. (Currently amended) The system of claim ~~3233~~, wherein the search query detector is a toolbar, browser addon or extension, deskbar, agent, proxy or like client-side application.

Claims 36-40 (Cancelled).

41. (Currently amended) The automated method of claim 2, wherein the step of detecting submission of the search query includes:

determining if part of the form object matches a known search command format of any of ~~the~~ a plurality of search engines, and

maintaining an adapter table of known search command formats for a plurality of search engines for identifying one or more search query parameters are entered by a user.

42. (Previously presented) The automated method of claim 41, wherein the search command format includes the network address of a search engine program for executing the search query.

Claims 43-44 (Cancelled).

45. (Currently amended) The automated method of claim 4441, and further including:

periodically validating the search command formats maintained in the adapter table.

46. (Currently amended) The automated method of claim 4441, and further including:

automatically identifying a search command format of a new search engine; and

updating the adapter table.

47. (Currently amended) The automated method of claim 4441, and further including:

collecting search information identifying a search box page of a search engine; and

identifying the search command format from the search information.

48. Previously presented) The automated method of claim 47, wherein the step of collecting search information includes:

collecting the HTML code of the search box; and

parsing the HTML code to identify the search command format.

49. (New) The automated method of claim 2, wherein the step of detecting submission of a search query to at least one search engine includes detecting submission of a completed form object.